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Of the foregoing papers, the Abstract of the Report of the Irish Railway Commission, and the Account of Fires in London, have appeared in the last number of this Journal. Of the remainder it will be perceived, that seven relate to the Statistics of Newcastle or its vicinity; and to this may be added Mr. Buddle's Paper on the Newcastle Coal-field, which was read in the Geological Section. This fact may be adduced as a striking illustration of the advantages likely to be produced by the Statistical Section, in inducing individuals to collect the statistics of those neighbourhoods in which the Association is likely to hold its meetings, and it would be unjust to omit to mention that at no previous meeting of the Association have so many papers relating to the statistics of the locality been brought forward.

The recommendations of grants proposed by the Committee of the Statistical Section, and adopted by the General Committee, are three in number.

1st, 150*l.* for continuing inquiries into the actual state of schools in England, considered merely as to numerical analysis: the Committee to consist of Sir C. Lemon, Bart., M.P., Lieut.-Col. Sykes, and G. R. Porter, Esq.

2nd, 100*l.* for a continuation of enquiries into the state of the working classes in England, specified in the form of numerical tables; the Committee consisting of Sir C. Lemon, Bart., M.P., Lieut.-Col. Sykes, and G. R. Porter, Esq.

3rd, 50*l.* for enquiries into the Statistics of the Collieries upon the Tyne and Wear, to be conducted by a local Committee, consisting of William Cargill, Esq., John Buddle, Esq., W. L. Wharton, Esq., T. Forster, Esq., and Thomas Wilson, Esq., with power to add to their number.

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*Abstract of a Return of Prisoners coming under the Cognizance of the Police of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, during the Ten Months from the 2nd of October, 1837, to the 2nd of August, 1838. By Mr. JOHN STEPHENS, Superintendent of Police.*

[Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association, 20th August, 1838.]

Prisoners tried at Assizes and Sessions . . . . .	{ Convicted . . . . .	81	
	{ Acquitted . . . . .	20	
Total . . . . .			101
Prisoners summarily disposed of by Magistrates . . . . .	{ Convicted . . . . .	1187	
	{ Discharged . . . . .	880	
Total . . . . .			2067
Persons summoned for offences under the Bye Laws, Town Improvement Act, Beer Acts, &c. . . . .	{ Convicted . . . . .	284	
	{ Discharged . . . . .	98	
Total . . . . .			382
Total . . . . .			2550

Of the 2168 prisoners tried by jury or magistrates, 261 are stated to be strangers to the town, or trampers travelling about the country. The number transported was 23; one had died, and 166 had disappeared from the cognizance of the police by other and unknown means. 71 are reported to have betaken themselves to honest and creditable means of

livelihood. The Report does not notice the number of re-committals, nor the proportion of the educated to the uneducated; but it is generally stated, that the returns include re-committals, including some cases which are deemed incorrigible, the parties having been committed ten times during the period; and that a majority of the prisoners could neither read nor write, a few only could read, and a very small proportion were good scholars.

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*Editor's Note.*—The population of Newcastle is at present estimated at about 64,000. In 1831 it amounted only to 42,760; but the increase of building and of trade since that period have caused a very rapid augmentation. One individual alone, Mr. Grainger, to whose enterprise the great improvement and progress of building in Newcastle are mainly attributable, has brought above 600 strange labourers into the town, whose families, averaging 3 individuals each, have increased the population within the last three or four years by at least 2000.

The above statements relate only to ten months; if a corresponding addition be made for the remaining two months of the year, the number committed for trial will be 121, and the number summarily disposed of by magistrates will be 2,480, making a total of 2601. This gives an average proportion of 1 person committed for trial in 529 inhabitants, while the average of Northumberland is only 1 in 1179 individuals, and the average of England 1 in 565; and the average proportion of persons committed for trial and summarily disposed of by magistrates is 1 in 24. It must, however, be borne in mind that a considerable number of the individuals included in the latter class appear before the magistrates several times in the course of the year, some as many as ten times; and that therefore the proportion of the vicious population is really much smaller than it would appear from the statement given without comment. Still the facts shew that in Newcastle the proportion of criminal offenders to the population is very high in comparison with the remainder of the county; and that the county, particularly the agricultural districts, is in a very favourable position as regards the commission of crime. The number of persons committed for trial in the whole of the county of Northumberland during the year 1837 was 189, or 1 in 1179 of the population; and in England and Wales the proportion was 1 in 565 of the population. Indeed, this county was one of the most advantageously situated in this respect during the year 1837, being surpassed only by the counties of Westmoreland and Durham\*. If, therefore, the estimated number of 121 persons committed for trial in Newcastle during one year be deducted from 189, the total number committed in Northumberland during 1837, the remainder will be only 68 criminals distributed over a population of 174,000, according to the census of 1831; or if the increase be estimated at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum, the population may be calculated at 192,000 in 1838; yielding a proportion in the first instance of 1 offender in 2558 inhabitants, and in the latter of 1 in 2823.

It appears from the above returns that the number of strangers apprehended during the ten months ending the 2d of August, 1838, was 261; of these 26 were committed for trial, yielding a proportion of 25

\* See Journal, No. IV., (Aug.) p. 241.

per cent. of the total number committed for trial; while the proportion among those summarily convicted was only 10 per cent. The same fact of the large proportion of strangers committed for trial in towns is observed in the statement drawn from the annual returns of the chaplain of the Preston Gaol, contained in the Proceedings of the Statistical Society of London, at page 246.

The above returns do not distinguish the sexes of the offenders; but it appears from a statement contained in Mr. Cargill's Report upon the Educational and Criminal Statistics of Newcastle,\* that in the period from the 12th of October, 1836, to the 24th of April, 1838, the number of males committed to prison was 757, and of females 507, being a proportion of 3 males to 2 females; whereas the proportion in London is about 3 males to 1 female; and in England and Wales it is 5 males to 1 female. This remarkable disproportion in Newcastle led to some discussion in the Section, from which it was elicited that the female population of the town have very few sources of employment, either in trade or manufactures; and that in consequence of their husbands' wages being usually very large, they are freed from the necessity of exertion, and become too frequently addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors. It was also stated that a large proportion of the female offenders came from a particular quarter of the town, called Sandgate.

As these returns refer only to a portion of a single year they do not afford the means of comparing the nature and amount of crime in Newcastle with the annual statements relating to the county of Northumberland, contained in the Criminal Tables laid before Parliament, nor of drawing any other useful general inferences from the documents in their present shape.

*A Statistical View of the recent Progress and present Amount of Mining Industry in France; drawn from the Official Reports of the "Direction Générale des Ponts et Chaussées et des Mines."*  
By G. R. PORTER, Esq. F.R.S.

[Read before the Statistical Section of the British Association, 20th August, 1838.]

IF, after having completed a careful examination into the condition of the various material elements that together make up the sum of the social and political advantages of England, a man were called upon to declare to which one among those elements our advanced position is chiefly to be ascribed, we can hardly doubt what would be his decision. The mineral deposits found in such rich abundance and in such great variety beneath the soil in so many quarters of the island would at once be acknowledged as the chief source of our manufacturing and commercial greatness, and thence of our political and social advancement.

No country in the world offers a finer field than England for geological researches, and no where has the science of geology been pursued with greater ardour or with better success. It would be superfluous, while addressing any Section of the British Association, to enlarge upon these facts, or to offer in any way to testify to the interest with which the researches of the accomplished geologists included among its members are watched throughout the scientific world. The amount of their

\* See page 359.